



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2014

Location: Department of Developmental Services, East Hartford Office

In attendance: Ann Gionet, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Lisa Sheppard, Robin Wood

By phone: Karen Hlavac, Mona Tremblay

Absent: Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Marcus Rivera, Robyn Trowbridge, Renee Toper

Call to Order: 10:08 am

Public Comment: None

Approval of October Minutes - One clarifying edit was requested and Lisa Sheppard made a motion and Karen Hlavac seconded the motion to accept the October minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved by Council membership.

Announcements

Linda Mizzi announced the following:

- 2015 Partner in Policy Making applications are available and due on December 19, 2014;
- Conference on December 8 called "Endless Possibilities" at the Sheraton Rocky Hill with a keynote about customized employment already has a waiting list;
- A Special Education Clinic is being held on November 22 which includes a brief overview of special education laws and an opportunity for families to meet individually with an attorney or advocate to discuss their specific circumstances.

Karen Hlavac announced that the Wallingford Public Schools Special Education Resource Fair on 10/28 was successful and quite well attended.

Discussion ensued regarding where families can find information about services and benefits and whether there is one place to obtain comprehensive information. Council members mentioned the availability of 211 Benefit Navigators, the CT Association for Human Services/211 initiative to assist with financial, housing, taxes, entrepreneurship, etc., the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Benefit Councilors and Med Connect as general resources for families. The Council also discussed the concept of "No Wrong Door" being looked at by the state as part of the Affordable Care Act. DDS'

Siobhan Morgan will be invited to come to a meeting to discuss the status of this initiative in Connecticut. This led to discussion about the need for the Family Support Council to collect information and convey where gaps exist and to report this to the Governor and Legislature.

Old Business

Membership - Lisa reported there are 6 potential new Council members at various stages in the process. Lisa Sheppard is continuing discussions with DDS regarding the "vetting" process. Since there are new legislators coming on board, it was suggested that a letter be sent to introduce the Council to new members as well as re-introduce to continuing legislators. Lisa agreed to draft something for review. Several current Council members will need to request reappointment by a new Legislator.

Brochure - The Committee was not able to meet but Ann Gionet agreed to pull together a meeting in the next month before the next Council meeting. Council members were in favor of the drafted brochure format but agreed that there is a lot of information to impart and it may be necessary to edit it to be more concise and select the most important information to impart in this brochure format. An important consideration is how to assure there is contact information but that it is not a phone number or email address that will be changing. Robin Wood agreed to find out if there is any way to have there be a mailbox/phone set up at DDS to accept inquiries that could be then passed on to one of the Co-Chairs for follow-up with interested parties.

New Business

Focus for the Coming Year - The Council had previously developed a "Roadmap" which will be distributed and reviewed at the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary